TWO LETTERS

From

Sir *Charles Coote*, Lord Preſident of the Province of *Connaght* in *Ireland*.

To the Honourable VVilliam Lenthall, *Speaker of the Parliament*.

RELATING

The Rendition of the Towne and Caſtle of *Carickfergus*, to Sir *Charles Coote*.

Together with

The totall Defeate of the Scottiſh and Iriſh Forces in the North of *Ireland*, under the Command of the Lord *Ards*, Lord *Claneboys* and *Monro*.

Imprimatur,
Hen: Scobell, Cleric: Parliamenti.

Printed at *London* for *Robert Ibbitſon* dwelling in Smithfield neer *Hoſier Lane*, 1650.

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Two Letters from Sir *Charles Coote*, Lord Preſident of the Province of *Connaught* in *Ireland*. *For the Honourable* William Lenthall *Speaker of the Parliament.*

Honourable Sir,

BEing advertized by ſeverall hands, that upon the retreat of *Monroes* party out of the Laggan, he would joyne with the Lord of *Ards*, and *Claneboyes*, about *Charlemount*, and march into theſe parts of the Counties of *Downe* and *Antrim*, for reliefe of *Carickefergus*, and that they did expect many of the Scottiſh Inhabitants here to riſe and joyne with them, I drew forth what Force I could make (with ſecurity to the Gariſons) on Saturday the 25. of *November*, to a Randezvouze at *Dromho*, between *Belfaſt* and *Liſnegarvy*, which conſiſted of part of my owne Regiaments of Horſe and Foot, and others that I brought from the Laggan. Sir *Theophilus Jones*, and Collonell *Chidley Cootes* Regiments of Horſe, with Collonell *Venables* his Troope, and *Liſnegarvy*

Horse, Colonell *Slaydes* Regiment of Foot, part of Colonell *Venables*, and foure Companies of Colonel *Fenwicks*, in all about 1500 Foot, and 1200 Horse. The next day we advanced to *Lisnegarvy*, and lay there six dayes, though very ill accommodated by reason of the former burning of that place and Country about it by *Monro*.

On Friday, the 30 of *November*, the Enemy advanced into the Country, and slipt by us beyond *Drummore* into *Mac Cartans* woods, which we could not hinder, lying at such a distance, nor could we advance higher into the Country, without hazzarding the Enemies passage another way over Bogs and Mountaines to *Carrickfergus*.

On Saturday, they came to *Cumber*, and early on Sunday, to New Towne. We followed them, and had like to have ingaged them on their rising from *Cumber*, some of them were cut off in the Rear, and some of their Tents and Ammunition taken, but comming a little short, and the waters being up, they got into New Towne, whither we sent a strong party to face them, and provoke them to fight, whereunto not finding them inclined, and the weather so excessive wet, our Ammunition spoyled, and victuals spent, we marched backe to *Malone* to refresh our men, change our Powder, and get new supply of Bread, intending to visit them againe within two dayes. But they prevented it by their march upon Wednesday last the 5 Instant within a Mile of *Lisnegarvy*, intending to get over the River of *Loggan* above that place, and to passe into the County of *Antrim* to *Carrikfergus*, on which we drew up againe to

Lisne-

Lysnegarvy, on this side of the water to oppose their passage, expecting hourely, with Major *Ormesby* 400 more of my Horse, which I had sent for out of the *Laggan*, who came immediately after our advancement, and were very serviceable in the execution. The next morning assoon as the Enemy arose, we marched after them very early out of *Lisnegarvy*, and before they had marched a mile from their Quarter, we ingaged with their Rear guard upon a Boggy passe on the Plaine of *Lysneskeane*, and after an hot dispute, our Van-guard of Foot, being commanded by Major *Gere* of my owne Regiment, and that of Horse by Major *Dunbar* of Sir *Theophilus Jones* his Regiment, who both behaved themselves very gallantly, got the Passe, and killed Cap. *Hambleton*, and divers others in the charge.

After which Forlorne of Horse, it was Sir *Theophilus Jones* place to charge; who did it with a great deale of gallantry, prosecuting the Enemy (whose grosse Body made little resistance) from place to place, till they were totally routed.

I sent off Major *King*, and Cap. St. *George*, with a party of Horse, to make good a Passe, which the Enemy of necessity must have gone through, who behaved themselves extream well in prosecution of the Orders given them; so that we conceive there could not be lesse killed then a thousand of the Enemy; neither Officer or Souldier of the Army omitting any thing that was possible to be done by men; the execution being pursued above eight or ten miles, and but for the Bogs and thicke wood, few of them could have escaped. And such horsemen as did escape, left

many of their horſes, and fled on foot.

All their Ammunition and Baggage was taken, and moſt of their foot Officers. Collonell *Henderſon* that betrayed *Sligo*, was killed; and Col. *Hambleton* is priſoner, with divers other Officers; what became of the Lords of *Ards*, and *Claneboyes*, and *Monro*, I am not yet able to give an account, ſome of our party being yet upon the purſuite; their number was 2000 Foot, and 800 Horſe, as we were informed, the night before we ingaged with them, by ſome of their men that ran to us from them, as likewiſe by priſoners which we took in the fight; they were all Iriſh except a very few.

The moſt of the Scots which the Lords brought with them, left them; nor did any in the Country joyne with them; wee loſt but one corporall of Horſe, and three private Souldiers, and not many hurt. For all which wee have great cauſe to bleſſe Gods holy name, to whom only the glory is due.

On Thurſday next *Carickfergus* by the capitulation is to be ſurrendred unto us; and I doubt not they will now performe with us;

but

but ſuch is the ſad condition of this Province by theſe late troubles, and the great deſtruction that hath been made by all parties that it is impoſſible to ſupport men enough out of the contributions thereof, to ſecure the Gariſons and Country, from the incurſions of the Enemy, untill *Charlemount*, and *Eniskelly* be firſt taken in; ſo that the Parliament muſt be pleaſed to afford us ſupplies for our men; or this Country, now almoſt waſted, will be totally ruined; which but moderately handled for one ſix months, would afford a conſtant conſiderable reliefe to their Forces.

This Gentleman Capt. St. *George*, is one who hath been a ſufferer with us, his Father and the whole Family, having loſt all they had, for their fidelity in the States ſervice; whom I humbly recommend to your favor, and remaine Sir,

Your moſt humble ſervant

Belfaſt, Decemb. 8. 1649.

CHARLES COOTE.

For

For the Honourable *William Lenthall* Esq.
Speaker of the PARLIAMENT.

Honourable Sir,

Contrary windes detaining my cousen Cap. St. George, since the writing of my dispatch, two or three days longer then I expected. I have this day received Carrickfergus *Town and Castle, according to capitulation, wherewith I have thought good to acquaint you, and shall humbly desire the same may be communicated to the House, which I believe will be very acceptable. I have placed Colonell* Venables *Governour thereof, and shall further humbly desire you to acquaint the House, that this Town and Castle is of the greatest importance of any place in this Province. Which being all, I take the boldnesse to conclude my selfe,*

SIR,

Your most humble and faithfull Servant,

Charles Coote.

Carrickfergus Decemb.
13th. 1649.

Imprimatur

Hen: Scobell Cleric. Parliamenti.